***Internationalizing Higher Education Through the Erasmus+ Program: Its Contribution to Multi-Cultural Education***

**Abstract**

Being one of the most successful and popular programs of the European Union, the Erasmus+ program has largely contributed to the shrinking of the world since 1987. Apart from the social and personal life experiences that the program offers, the Erasmus+ program does also allow students to experience different learning environments and educational systems as a way to expose the powerful influence of multiculturalism, diversity, and inclusion on Erasmus students' overall social, cultural, academic, and professional experiences. Given this, this paper strives to explore the powerful influence of the Erasmus+ Program on internationalizing higher education through the enhancement of globalized learning. It seeks to unveil the important contributions of the program in fostering the worldwide flow of academic ideas and the integration of international learning/ teaching strategies, research tools, intercultural communication skills, and institutional services. To serve these purposes, the study used qualitative interviews in which 20 International Erasmus students at Ljubljana University were interviewed. The survey's results revealed that the Erasmus+ Program has largely impacted the interviewees' overall academic experience, offering them the ability to freely express, exchange, and celebrate their academic opinions, research topics, and personal as well as cultural perspectives on several debatable topics. Their participation in this program has also influenced some of the interviewees to readjust their overall research methodology and learning skills, adopting new methods and techniques that they were not introduced to back in their home institutions. Accordingly, the Erasmus+ program has facilitated to an increasing extent the internationalization process of higher institutions across the world.

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